

DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at The Town Hall on Wednesday, 18th April 2001 commencing at 7.30 pm

Present: Councillors Flux (Chairman), Bell, Clarke, Clinch, Cosgrove, Mrs. Cox, Mrs. Davies, Haslam, Miss Hill, Newey, Mrs. Swash, Todd and Mrs. Walker.

C.Councillor Matthews, D.Cllr. O'Sullivan (for part of the meeting), Mr. D. Blakey (Clerk) and Mrs. J. Smith (Minute Secretary)

182/01 **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Hart.

183/01 **Minutes**

The minutes of the Meeting held on 21st March 2001 were amended as follows: -

167/01 addition of "Council thought having the maps on display would be an enhancement for visitors to the Parish."

The minutes were then approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

184/01 **Matters Arising**

a) Further to minute 178/01(a), the Clerk reported that Complete Weed Control have been contracted to spray every street in the Parish, work will commence on Thursday 19th April 2001.

185/01 **Urgent Business**

An item raised by Cllr. Mrs. Swash regarding the Co-op shop to be discussed at the end of the agenda if not covered in any Working Group reports. An item raised by Cllr. Clinch regarding the Castle Grounds to be discussed at the end of the agenda.

186/01 **10 Minute Forum**

No member of the public wished to speak.

187/01 **Affordable Housing**

The Clerk reported that only 6 replies had been received from the resident's consultation on the boundary and play equipment. In respect of the front boundary line, three residents preferred to leave the area open plan and three stated they would prefer a hedge. Three of the six replies came from residents at the front of the development; of those replies there were 2 in favour of a hedge and 1 in favour of open plan. In respect of the proposed play equipment, three of the replies stated they were satisfied with the suggestions for play equipment and three made suggestions for other types of equipment.

In the debate on this subject it was pointed out that the District Council passed the plans, which show an enclosed frontage and the Secure by Design status was also awarded assuming this would be done. It was proposed by Cllr. Clarke and seconded by Cllr. Newey that a hedge should be planted in accordance with the plans. This was agreed.

188/01 **Review of the Council's Assets**

The Chairman reported that the Council's assets have been reviewed and are as listed in the Annual Accounts. The strip of land on the Oxford Road mentioned at a previous meeting appears to belong to the Highway Authority and not the Parish. The land at the Castle Grounds on the old gun club site also belongs to the Parish. The Parish Council are the Trustees of the oval in the middle of The Castle Grounds, English Heritage owns the rest of the site. One item to be added to the list of assets is the coat of arms on the side of the town hall building. It was confirmed by the Chairman that the sports pavilions on the windmill centre site were passed over to the sporting organisations when built. These organisations are responsible for the use and maintenance of the pavilions, although the buildings are owned by the PC. The PC are Custodian Trustees of the Holly Tree Club. The deeds give details of ownership/trustees, copies of which are held by the Clerk.

189/01 **Stonepit, Hempton**

The Clerk reported that he had received copies of the correspondence from Mr C. Middleditch, for which he was thanked. A working group of Cllr Bell, Cosgrove and Cllr Miss Hill was formed to review the future use of the Stonepit and report back to Council

Environment and Highways Working Group

Cllr Mrs Cox reported as follows:

190/01 **Environment**

The Working Group had nothing to report. The following items were raised.

a) Cllr. Mrs. Davies had received a complaint regarding the rubbish bin in the lay-by on the Clifton Road. It appears that the refuse collectors are not emptying it and, therefore, it is over flowing. The Clerk confirmed that a list of all 27 refuse bins in the parish is being sent to Cherwell DC to ensure refuse collections are made. The bin on the Clifton Road is locked and has to be emptied by the village steward. Consideration would be given to relocating the locked bin and placing a normal bin on the site so that it can be emptied by refuse collectors on a regular basis.

b) Cllr. Haslam reported that he had read an article regarding Paper Blitz where prizes are given for persons collecting the most bags of rubbish. It was agreed that this would be a good idea and should be done in time for the judging of the Best Kept Village competition. Cllr. Haslam to organise.

c) Cllr. Flux reported that the skip in Cosy Lane is still causing problems due to litter and mess etc. Following a debate on this subject it was agreed that the Deddington News to asked to remind users of the skip not to dump rubbish at the side of the skip when the skip is full. The skip is located in a residential area and is causing offence to nearby residents. It was also agreed that the clerk would ask Cherwell DC about other possibilities such as earlier delivery and collection of the skip and other possible sites for location.

d) The Clerk confirmed that the dumping of grass cuttings at the Castle Grounds has been reported.

191/01 **Parking**

The Group thanked all those who participated in the parking audit and asked that the Deddington News print this in the next issue. It was a complex task to organize and Cllr Bell and his task group also need a vote of thanks. The sense of community spirit among the volunteers was refreshing. It is going to take many hours at analyse all of the information but the Group hope to be in a position to make some comment at either the May or June meeting. Cllr. Bell added that a lot of information will be gained from the survey and he feels the final statistics will be very comprehensive. It was agreed that a vote of thanks be given to all involved.

192/01 **Highways**

a) ORCC have advised that grants of up to £5000 are available for action plans, which identify local needs. The Group have requested more information.

b) A copy of a letter sent to highways had been received. Mr. Broadbent of Stonecourt, Earls Lane complains that the new footpath outside his home is creating a chicane and causing traffic difficulties as well as restricting turning access to his property. He asks that parking be prohibited opposite his house. The Group feel they will be more able to consider this request in the light of the parking audit and will be in a position to comment when the analysis of the audit is complete. Agreed that the Clerk should write and inform him of this.

c) It was confirmed that the mounds of earth have been removed from Earls Lane. Councillors expressed concern regarding the standard of the path and hoped that OCC will ensure that the contractors build the path to the same standard as required when building the Hempton footpath.

d) The ORCC announced a conference regarding the implementation of the rural white paper on June 19th St Aldates Parish Centre, Oxford. If any councillor would like to attend a program and booking form will be requested.

e) SID (Speed Indication Device) is a system, which visually flashes the speed of the motorist approaching the device. It is portable and stays for a limited time in specific locations. The Working Group felt that a request should be made for TVP to locate the device in the Parish. Agreed that the Clerk will make this request and suggest suitable sites.

f) A Boards – The Group proposed that strong action should be taken and ban all A boards and freestanding advertising boards in the village. They are unnecessary and unsightly. More

importantly A boards place on the highway are illegal. The PC should not be seen breaking the law by condoning the A boards. It should also not be giving parishioners permission to erect them. The Council do not have the authority to do so. Cllr. Mrs. Cox had received many complaints from parishioners who are disgruntled that despite complaints they remain. The locally made turquoise sign is an eyesore. OCC cannot be expected to act and remove the Deddington Arms sign if the PC appears to be selective in applying the law. All signs should be banned. Maybe thought should be given to erecting a wall mounted parish board to advertise parish events.

A debate followed this proposal where arguments for and against minimal use of boards were made. It was agreed that public opinion should be sought by way of a questionnaire to be distributed in the Deddington News. The Working Group to compose and present a draft of this at the next meeting. It was also agreed that this subject should be mentioned at the Annual Parish Meeting.

g) When asked for an update on the lamppost in The Paddocks the Clerk reported that it is where Highways wanted it to be located. He confirmed that it does illuminate no 7 The Paddocks but hasn't spoken to resident to gain her views. The Clerk will speak to the resident.

h) More complaints have been received regarding the caravan parked opposite the Chinese restaurant on New Street. It was agreed to complain again to police and highways as it is now damaging surface of the verge. The Clerk will pursue this.

i) Cllr. Mrs. Davies asked for an update on the Clifton footpath. Cllr. Flux confirmed that Colin Carrit of Highways confirmed that the matter is progressing.

j) Cllr. Haslam stated that he was pleased to see the temporary speeding signs erected through the village. He asked if they could remain permanently. However, the Clerk confirmed that the law only allows such signs to be erected for 2 weeks, twice a year.

k) Cllr. Haslam reported that vehicles are not giving way at the pinch point on the junction of Chapel Square and Philcote Street. Working Group to consider provision of additional bollards

l) Cllr. Todd reported that contractors have not re instated the footpath between the traffic lights and The Tchure to a satisfactory standard. The Clerk will pursue this matter with OCC highways.

193/01 **Recreation and Grants Working Group**

A report to the Council re the proposed BMX trail and skate park was circulated with the agenda. Cllr. Davies reported that there might be sources of grants for the type of project outline in the report and further investigations would be made. The Group felt that another meeting with the young persons is necessary to make sure there is sufficient interest for such a project. The Group will report further when information regarding grants has been received and a meeting has taken place. D. Cllr. O'Sullivan reported that he had met with Officers at Cherwell DC regarding grants etc. and he would pass all the information to the Working Group.

194/01 **Finance and General Purposes Working Group**

Cllr. Todd reported as follows:

a) Review of Town Hall Rent

It was recommended that the daily rate for the hire of the Town Hall should be raised to £15.00 with immediate effect. The rent is way below local current rates. This was agreed.

b) OCC Stakeholders Consultation

This exercise is designed to assist the County Council in setting up its new consultation and committee arrangements. The Working Group has considered the questionnaire and has completed it. The reply is available for inspection at the Clerks office.

c) DETR Model code of conduct for councillors

The Working Group is in agreement with most of the Model Code's contents. However, it was felt that a few of the provisions were a bit of "a sledgehammer to crack a walnut", it was felt that the requirements to register "non financial interests" (5.6) should remain on a voluntary basis (as at present) and should not be made mandatory. It was agreed that the Working Group should prepare notes for the Clerk so that a reply can be sent to DETR.

d) Parish clerk – Conditions of service

A paper outlining proposed changes to the Clerk's conditions of Service was circulated. It was

agreed that the changes outlined should be made.

e) Friends of Deddington Library

The final event in the Friends fundraising programme, a concert by Choros, will take place on Sunday 13 May at 4.30 pm in the church. Particular thank for sponsorship for this event go to a number of village businesses. The Friends will have raised their promised target of £2,000 at the conclusion of this event. On a smaller scale the Friends recently raised over £90 following a successful quiz evening.

195/01 **Planning and Property Working Group**

Cllr Miss Hill reported the recommendations of her Group as follows:

a) Applications

01/06598LB – Park Farm, New Street – renewal of 96/00519/LB conversion of existing agricultural barns into dwellings. 3 houses and alterations of vehicle and pedestrian access – no objection

01/00482/F– 25 The Daedings – rear single storey extension with mono pitched roof and enclosure of existing porch – no objection unless any residents have any comments.

01/00077/F – Grove Lodge, High Street – conversion of existing barn and single garage as amended – no objection

Cllr. Newey declared an interest in the next item.

01/326F & 327LB It was also pointed out that a previous planning condition stated that Bull Ring Cottage and Tays Cottage should be under the same ownership. If this is the case there is no need for a second access. This should be queried.

The above recommendations of the Group were agreed

b) Approvals

Nil

c) Other matters

1. No reply had been received from Cherwell DC in respect of the planning query relating to Bullring Cottage and Tays Cottage. It was agreed this would be followed up.

2. A complaint had been made to Cllr. Mrs Davies regarding the dilapidated condition of St. Michaels Farmhouse, Clifton, which is unoccupied. This was noted and will be passed to the Planning Authority.

196/01 **Windmill Management Committee**

Cllr. Flux reported that the Windmill Community Centre Annual General Meeting would be held on Tuesday 8th May 2001 at the Centre.

197/01 **Invoices for payment**

Invoices totalling £4,057.00 in accordance with a schedule circulated at the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes, were approved for payment

198/01 **Investment of the councils funds**

At close of business on April 2001 the balances were as follows: -

Account No	Balance	Rate of interest%	Notice
60858471	4,680.30	3.00	14 days
60708569	24,453.03	1.8	Overnight
60830488	744.99	1.6	Overnight
70708542	<u>500.00</u>		current
	30,378.32		
Bradford & Bingley BS	19,970.00	5.3	120 days
West Bromwich BS	505,277.47	5.85	Overnight
Total	<u>555,625.79</u>		

b) It was agreed that the £744.99 from account no.60830488 (Stonepit account) would be transferred and the account closed.

199/01 **ORCC List of publications**

The list of publications was circulated at the Meeting and it was agreed that Councillors would notify the Clerk of the publications they wished to receive.

200/01 **Correspondence**

A list of correspondence was circulated at the meeting, copy attached. Queries were raised in respect of the following:

Winged Fellowship – This is not a local charity and no-one in the Parish is known to benefit therefrom.

Domesday County Edition – Discussions have taken place with the Library Authority and it was confirmed that it would be unwise to purchase a copy.

201/01 **Any other business**

Cllr Swash asked if there was any news on the future location of the Post Office. It was agreed that Cllrs Flux and Swash should meet with the Manager of the Co-op to review this and other items.

Cllr Clinch requested that the entrance road to the Castle Grounds be upgraded. It was agreed that quotes for additional topping be obtained. It was also agreed that Cherwell be asked to clear the areas around the ground (dead wood etc) as had been done previously.

202/01 **Date of next meeting**

Wednesday 2nd May 2001 – Annual Parish Meeting – Windmill Centre

Wednesday 16th May 2001 – Annual General Meeting – Town Hall

Both Meetings commence at 7.30 pm